



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
April 1, 2009

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MAYOR BARRETT HOSTED 2010 CENSUS KICK OFF TODAY

He and community leaders called for complete and accurate count

Mayor Tom Barrett along with census representatives and other community leaders kicked off the 2010 U.S. Census this morning.

Barrett and other speakers discussed the City's Complete Count Committee, which will be charged with making sure Milwaukee's census count is accurate and complete. Census counts determine the amount of federal funds Milwaukee receives for public safety, transportation and other city programs. Additionally, the Census determines the districts of the state legislature and the number of seats that Wisconsin will have in the United States Congress.

"With Milwaukee continuing to face budget shortfalls, it is more imperative than ever that Milwaukee provide a complete census count," Barrett said. "I urge all residents to accurately fill out census forms so that Milwaukee can receive the full federal funding it deserves."

In addition to the federal funding, the Mayor also urged residents to participate in order to get accurate population totals for legislative representation.

"Everyone, everyone needs to be counted," Barrett said. "Everyone in the City is committed so that no one is uncounted, but now we need your help in filling out the questionnaires and spreading the word."

To ensure an accurate count, the Complete Count Committee will focus on finding individuals who have traditionally been left out of the census, including those below the poverty level, those receiving public assistance and those who speak a language other than English. Sharon Robinson, the city's administration director, is the committee's chairwoman.

The Mayor was joined by representatives from the Latino, African American, Hmong and Native American communities. He said Wisconsin was a high performer in the last census, but he is hoping for improvement this time by getting an accurate count of these under-represented populations.

“I know there are some people afraid of the government, but this information cannot be shared,” Barrett said. “We need to do the best job we can to be sure all are counted. The census is now in your hands.”

Barrett also asked for everyone’s help in spreading the word about the census this year. He said residents can do this in a variety of ways: at school events, at cultural events, by holding census rallies and by talking to co-workers.

The event ended with the Mayor proclaiming today as “Census Kick-Off Day” in Milwaukee. Census questionnaires will be mailed in early 2010 and are due April 1, 2010.